

# 2013

## MARYGROVE COLLEGE

*Distinguished Alumni and  
Distinguished Alumni of Tomorrow  
Awards*



*Friday, September 20 • The Marygrove College Theatre*

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AND DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI OF TOMORROW AWARDS

The Marygrove College Distinguished Alumni and Distinguished Alumni of Tomorrow Awards are honors bestowed by Marygrove College and the Marygrove College Alumni Association. These awards have been established to recognize and honor alumni and current students who have distinguished themselves and their alma mater.

The Distinguished Alumni and Distinguished Alumni of Tomorrow Awards celebrate the ideals of **competence** (the ability to understand and participate effectively in the promise of our evolving world), **compassion** (the capacity to care about and respect the worth and dignity of people), and **commitment** (the will to act responsibly based upon one's beliefs and to contribute to the building of a more just and humane world)—qualities that Marygrove has always tried to instill in its students.

**The Distinguished Alumni Awards honor graduates who have made significant contributions and demonstrated leadership in any of the following areas:**

- Professional, educational or artistic endeavors
- The community through government service and/or civic organizations (such as Lions Club, city planning commissions, government committees, etc.)
- Political action, social justice or volunteer activities in schools, hospitals, etc.
- Marygrove College

**The Distinguished Alumni of Tomorrow Award honors an exceptional undergraduate junior or senior (2013-2014 academic year) who has made significant contributions to the Marygrove College community in all of the following areas:**

- Academic Accomplishment
- Leadership
- Service to the College and/or community



# *Dorothy Jones Hogan Sweeney '48*

Music always has been a theme in the life of Dorothy Jones Hogan Sweeney, who graduated from Marygrove in 1948 with a B.A. in music. Dorothy was already an accomplished musician when she entered Marygrove. The lack of male organists during World War II meant opportunity for the young musician. She began playing for morning mass at St. Cecelia in Detroit in the eighth grade. By the time she entered her senior year in high school, Dorothy was the organist and music director at St. Luke, playing for the 6:00, 7:00 and 8:00 a.m. masses each morning. Her earnings covered tuition at Marygrove. Dorothy later earned a Master of Music degree at Ball State University in 1968, an important credential to her.

Dorothy married Don Hogan soon after graduation. In time, the young family moved to Warsaw, Indiana. At that time, anti-Catholic sentiments were prevalent in the area and had driven many Catholics from Warsaw. According to her son Jerry, "Dorothy helped soften those attitudes by offering her musical talents to churches throughout the area regardless of their affiliation." Additionally, Dorothy became the music teacher at her daughter's elementary school and eventually taught music in four elementary schools, the junior and senior high schools, and was Music Coordinator for Warsaw Community Schools. She was also the organist at Sacred Heart Catholic Church and directed its choir.

One day a week she volunteered to teach music at Sacred Heart School. She was a 4-H leader for her two daughters' clubs and a Cub Scout Den Mother for her two sons while still giving piano lessons and playing the organ in area churches.

When Don's parents became terminally ill, Dorothy resigned from teaching to care for them. After their deaths Dorothy pursued a new career. Her husband's company had added a real estate division and needed a state licensed broker. The long-time office manager had failed the test several times so Dorothy offered to take it. Don bet her a piano that she couldn't pass the broker's exam on the first try. The Steinway in her living room attests to her win.

Dorothy's success as a real estate broker and salesperson plus her leadership in several civic organizations led to her election as President of the Chamber of Commerce and, later, being named Warsaw's "Woman of the Year." After the firm sold the real estate operation, she became a broker with another company where she earned the title of the county's "Realtor of the Decade."

When Dorothy learned of the availability of a Bosendorfer grand piano, regarded by many as the world's finest, she put up her own money and launched a drive for the balance to provide the instrument for Sacred Heart Church. Like most projects Dorothy set her sights on, the drive was successful. In light of her numerous contributions to Sacred Heart Church she was named its first "Woman of the Year."

Music in many forms has come to Warsaw with Dorothy's help. She assembled a group of fellow music lovers who developed the Lakeland Community Concert Association which brings touring professional musicians to town for a popular annual concert series. She also joined Kappa Kappa Kappa, a philanthropic organization which raises funds for college scholarships and social service projects. Dorothy was a major musical talent in the Tri-Kappa annual fund raising Red Stocking Reviews. She is now a member emeritus.

Nowadays Dorothy usually plays the organ as a volunteer three days a week and takes communion to homebound parishioners. She is the chauffeur for several ladies in their 90s who no longer are able to drive and who love their lunchtime outings.

At 86, Dorothy has experienced the sadness of being widowed twice (after her husband Don died, she later met and married Lou Sweeney who passed away two years ago) and the deaths of two of her four children. She is sustained by her faith, "When you have doubts or are struggling, God will put his arms around you. You should just ask for help and you'll get it."



# Barbara Kent Freeman '63

When Barbara Kent Freeman learned she could be eligible for early admission to Marygrove College after three years at St. Ambrose High School in Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan, she jumped at the chance. To help with tuition and the costs of dormitory living, she took a job working the old plug-in switchboard in Madame Cadillac Hall as well as the slightly newer switchboard in the Florent Gillet residence hall.

Barbara remembers the outstanding faculty members who guided her to her bachelor's degree in biology 50 years ago and built the foundation for her graduate studies: Sister Marie Fidelis, Sister Stanislaus, Sister Venard and Dr. George Brewer. Barbara continued her education by earning a master's degree and a doctorate in anatomy from the University of Michigan. She later studied medical education at the Harvard Macy Institute at Harvard Medical School.

While in graduate school, Barbara considered a degree in medicine but found that she truly loved teaching young adults. After a year as an anatomy instructor at New Jersey College of Medicine and Dentistry, Barbara settled in northern Ohio. For most of her academic career, Dr. Freeman has taught at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine (CWRU) located in Cleveland's famed University Circle, a cluster of arts and cultural institutions. She also has been an instructor at Cleveland State University, Northeast Ohio Medical University, and Washington University School of Dental Medicine in St. Louis.

In 1973, she married Dr. Richard Freeman, an Otolaryngology surgeon, who shared her passion for anatomy and education. Over the following years, the two had a son and a daughter. In 1982, the couple took on the chairmanship of their children's school's annual auction. Together they continued to co-chair the event for several years, raising more than \$150,000 for the school over that time.

Barbara's teaching has brought numerous awards including the Kaiser Permanente Excellence in Teaching Award at CWRU School of Medicine in 2002. She was the faculty inductee to Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society at CWRU in 2004. This award is regarded as the most prestigious of medical education honors in the

country, according to Professor Nicole Ward of CWRU School of Medicine. Ward writes, "She brings out the "best self" in each of her students, and her energy and devotion to this endeavor is boundless and never-ending."

Barbara was recently chosen by CWRU School of Medicine as its very first Master Teacher, a distinction created by Dr. Pamela Davis, the dean of the medical school. Dr. Davis only awards this designation to five or fewer faculty members each year. Barbara was also one of a handful of non-physician medical educators to ever

have the honor of bestowing the "hood" upon a graduating medical student at Case Medical School. According to Dr. Davis, "Dr. Freeman readily credits Marygrove College with providing a strong foundation for her long and remarkable career."

Barbara says, "I love teaching young adults and relish nurturing talent. To see them succeed and achieve excellence is wonderful." According to her, today's students learn in a totally different way. "They seem smarter and soak up so much

from the Internet. Learning is more of a group effort now." In her anatomy and neuroscience courses, Barbara presents information visually using Power Point, videos and other electronic tutorials to stimulate learning and encourage collaboration. The lessons are shorter and the discussion is longer according to Barbara. In fact, she has found the traditional lecture format to be somewhat uncomfortable.

In addition to creating and overseeing the gross anatomy curriculum for the medical school, Barbara has served on several departmental committees and has published in a number of medical education journals. She also served as an invited panelist at the CWRU Collaboration Technology Summit, where she presented a session called "Faculty Innovations—Video-centric Learning with MediaVision Software."

Whenever a free hour presents itself, Barbara can be found reading or working in her garden. Except for a "wonderful" weeklong family trip to Paris in 2005, the Freeman's travels have been stateside. Now well into her "retirement years," she has no plans to give up teaching. "It is simply glorious to be able to do what you love and to get paid for it."



## Suzanne E. Sattler, IHM '65

A memoir for Suzanne Sattler, IHM, could be titled *The Unexpected Life*. When she joined the Sisters Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary with a newly earned bachelor's degree from Marygrove, she expected to continue to teach in classrooms much like those she taught at Immaculata High School, her first assignment. Drawn to Marygrove because of the college's emphasis on social justice, she remembers fascinating speakers, and studied Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Had a Dream" speech and President John F. Kennedy's call to service.

After her formation period, Sue studied for a master's in American Studies from the University of Michigan. Following a 1971 retreat, IHM General Superior Margaret Brennan, citing her desire for an attorney to specialize in poverty law, urged Sue to pursue her interest and apply to law school. With little previous exposure to the law in action, Sue and another IHM sister became "court watchers," following the "Algiers Motel Incident" trial which centered on the actions of law enforcement during the 1967 Detroit riots. Sue continued to teach while attending law school at night. She earned her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law in 1976 and was accepted to practice by the State Bar of Michigan and the Federal Bar Association the same year.

During her final year of law school, Sue served as research assistant in Detroit's Federal Defender Office. Next she joined Michigan Legal Services concentrating on nursing homes – policy versus individual rights and needs. Lobbying became an essential part of her work. She then became a member of the UAW legal staff and served a year as staff counsel at The Center for Social Gerontology as well.

Sue later changed her focus and accepted a part-time position as assistant to the executive vice-president of the Sisters of Mercy Health Corporation and later as Director of Urban Community Development in Detroit for Mercy Health Services.

These positions permitted Sue the time for board service, and she began a kind of parallel career using her leadership skills as a member of non-profit secular and faith-based governing boards. She became a health committee member of New Detroit, Inc. and served 15 years as a board member of Southwest Detroit Community Mental Health Services, nine of those as board president.

In 1978 Sue was named by the IHMs to represent them on the Marygrove College Board of Directors and she served intermittent terms for a total of 24 years.

Sue was one of the founders of Alternatives for Girls (AFG), an organization that helps homeless and high-risk girls/young women "avoid violence, teen pregnancy and exploitation, and helps them to explore and access the support, resources and opportunities necessary to be safe, to grow strong and to make positive choices in their lives." Amy Good, CEO says, "Sr. Sattler served as board chair for AFG during the very early period, 1987 through 1992, and provided critical guidance through the extremely challenging and pivotal years during which AFG could easily have gone the way of so many organizations, burning brightly for a short time but then flickering out due to lack of sustainable funding or other organizational challenges."



She was a member and chair of the Midwest region of Jesuit Volunteers, a layperson formation and service program, Jesuit-sponsored and somewhat similar to the Peace Corps. Sue was also president of the board of Women ARISE which assists women who have been imprisoned with the basics of reintegration – job training, documents and family reunification

Sue joined protests after several nuns were murdered in El Salvador in 1980. She was also able to go to El Salvador with a delegation that accompanied *campesinos* who were making the arduous return from their burned and pillaged villages. Because they had been branded by their government as communists they were in great danger unless shielded by foreigners. The delegates often faced armed military. For 25 years Sue has worked to accompany Salvadorans. She served on the SHARE Foundation national board as president and helped organize the Detroit SHARE Sister Community. As a member of more than 20 delegations to El Salvador she says, "It is living close to the Gospel."

She currently is board president of the Matrix Theatre, which includes a youth development component. Located in Southwest Detroit, Matrix engages more than 800 children and teens each year in all aspects of theatre from playwriting to set design and more.

# Virginia Burdick Skinner '67

As a fundraiser, Virginia "Ginny" Burdick Skinner knows that a financial goal must be achievable but that it requires a stretch. In anticipation of her class' 40 year reunion in 2007, Ginny suggested a significant class gift. She convened more than 20 class members a year in advance and they set a goal of \$100,000 for their gift to Marygrove. The amount was unprecedented. Ginny admits she was initially more than nervous about that goal but committed to the cause. The campaign titled 100 for 100: **Leaders Supporting Leaders** introduced a specially designed scholarship program for exceptional Detroit students. Ginny was tireless in persuading and following through, until the \$100,000 goal was reached and exceeded.

Ginny's commitment to Marygrove began almost as soon as she stepped onto campus during a summer trip before her senior year to see several colleges. She actually had discovered Marygrove in a book about colleges given to her by the principal of her Clinton, New York public high school. She was looking for a Catholic women's college that offered a social work major. With no other exposure she enrolled at Marygrove. She found a place "That gave me a world view and grounded me. I found a sense of community and an atmosphere that stressed the importance of fostering social justice. A bonus was the lifelong friends I made there."



Her admission to Marygrove was delayed for a year when she underwent spinal fusion surgery at the Lahey Clinic in Boston followed by several months of recuperation. According to Ginny, her parents had never in the five previous years given up seeking help for her and had let her be herself, enjoying as much independence as the pain would allow. No wonder her initial plan at Marygrove was to learn how to help children or others with catastrophic illnesses or disabilities.

During her senior year at Marygrove Ginny was able to take classes at the University of Michigan toward a master's degree which she completed at Boston College School of Social Work. Ginny held several direct service social work positions in Boston, Washington, D.C. and Baltimore hospitals before landing in Phoenix in the mid-1970s.

As Ginny advanced in her career, her work increasingly took on the character of matching needs to resources and improving systems. She revamped a planning process for \$10 million in human services spending for the Maricopa Association of Governments, a council of governments serving more than half the population of Arizona. She and other staff gathered data, organized input meetings and hearings, and published the plan which was submitted to the State of Arizona for implementation.

In 1983, frustrated with the lack of consistent and compatible data sources to enable good decisions in the planning process, she initiated the creation of the Data Network for Human Services and was its executive director for 13 years. The organization gathered information from more than 300 non-profit agencies in Arizona and more than 40 sources from state and federal governments, and various regional sources. Information was made available to elected officials, media, The United Way, human services agencies and related stakeholders. It became one of the most complete data libraries of its kind in the country. The Network helped all the affected agencies and governmental units plan the best ways to use available resources for the greatest benefit to citizens.

Ginny later served as director of the Desert Mission Food Bank, John C. Lincoln Health Network in Phoenix. The Food Bank assisted more than 1,500 families a month with supplemental nutrition or emergency food boxes delivered at the food bank, schools, assisted living centers and homes. Food drives, purchases or cooperative agreements with other food banks were the sources of food acquisition. She managed a staff of six and 70 volunteers as well as the budget.

For the past decade Ginny has been Director of Development for the Association of Arizona Food Banks (Aafb), a non-profit organization with the mission to deliver food and services

to food banks and foster relationships in support of their commitment to eliminate hunger. One of Aafb's projects brings donated and purchased food to member food banks – 30 million pounds last fiscal year, the equivalent of 24.9 million meals. Aafb's five-member regional food banks collectively serve the entire state, currently reaching approximately 128,000 Arizonans a week at over 1,600 sites statewide. Aafb advocates at the state and federal level, often in collaboration with other regional and national groups, for better nutrition assistance programs and policies. Ginny says the meetings with advocates recharge her commitment.

Ginny also volunteers at the Apache Fair Trade Cooperative, selling Native American crafts, jewelry and artworks, a grassroots economic development to help alleviate poverty on reservations. This effort grew out of her involvement at the Franciscan Renewal Center. "She is very active in the Franciscan Renewal Center where she worships, engages in spiritual study and reflection, and regularly leads as liturgist," according to Ginny Hildebrand, CEO and president of Aafb.

In a spare moment Ginny enjoys time with friends, cooking a good dinner, especially for her many visitors, tending a small yard, taking a swim in the pool and especially time with her son, Brian, with his endless interests and legendary humor.

# Jane Hammang-Buhl '68

Forty-five years ago Jane Hammang-Buhl stepped through the doors of Marygrove's Liberal Arts Building full of enthusiasm and hope. Her mother had attended Marygrove but The Depression interfered with her graduation. What Jane did not realize was that she would spend most of her career in those handsome halls. She found Marygrove "transformative" as she became very engaged in the theology of Vatican II. She joined the National Students Association at Marygrove and became more involved in social justice issues, campaigned for civil rights and protested the Vietnam War. After she received her bachelor's degree in economics at Marygrove in 1968, Jane headed west to the University of San Francisco. The death of her mother brought her back to Detroit where she completed her master's degree in social ethics at the University of Detroit. Knowing that she would need a terminal degree for tenure consideration, Jane later earned an M.B.A. at Wayne State University.

Jane taught at St. Frances Cabrini and Bishop Gallagher High Schools and also at Wayne County Community College. She returned to Marygrove as a faculty member more than 30 years ago. Jane began teaching her college classes in a lecture-discussion style but as technology improved she introduced online teaching segments and podcasting. Given the number of non-traditional students, she was anxious to solve the problem of students forced to miss class because of job travel or other commitments, and emerging technologies helped her do that. Jane says that she loved teaching and found the challenge of student learning constantly engaging. She always has had a particular interest in business ethics and believes that the skills of ethical decision making can be taught. She served as Chair of the Business and Computer Information Systems department which became one of the larger concentrations of study at Marygrove and was the first president of the faculty assembly. Jane was named Dean of the Professional Studies Division in 2008. A fellow classmate, Margaret Dixon Kronk '68 writes, "Jane has worked diligently and effectively to ensure academic rigor, develop program-specific growth initiatives, strengthen faculty development and improve learning outcomes. Jane is a leader par excellence."

When named Vice President for Academic Affairs in 2009, she discovered that Marygrove's Ohio Board of Regents

authorization had lapsed. This meant that the online Master in the Art of Teaching program (MAT)—a critical source of enrollment—was in jeopardy of being shut down in Ohio. Jane immediately began the painstaking work of securing Ohio reauthorization and then continued work to deliver the degree in 43 states. She also was deeply engaged in the collaborative work of accreditation for other Marygrove College programs. According to Dr. Lorraine A. Ozar '68, of the Loyola University School of Education, Chicago, "I offer no exaggeration in stating that professional recognition and accreditation of programs is the lifeblood of institutions of higher education. Jane gave this tremendous service to Marygrove more than once."



Jane led *Defining Detroit*, Marygrove's 15-month multidisciplinary commemoration of Detroit's Tri-centennial. Seventeen projects included photos of historic city neighborhoods, and nationally known speakers and artists, novelist Joyce Carol Oates and historian JoEllen Vinyard. *Defining Detroit* still exists today as a series of lectures and programs focused on issues relevant to the City, as part of Marygrove's Institute for Detroit Studies.

Always a leader and visionary, Jane was asked to chair the "Values and Principles" Teaching and Learning Leadership Team for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's BOLD grant to infuse the concept of urban leadership throughout Marygrove's curriculum. Several colleagues affirmed, "She did a fantastic job."

Over the years, Jane has prepared dozens of articles and presentations, has received a stack of honors from student groups, faculty, administration and professional organizations, and has been consulted broadly on ethics issues. According to Dorothy Seebaldt, a Marygrove faculty member, her focus on ethics in business is an outgrowth of her commitment to the Gospel values in all life's undertakings.

Jane and her husband Bill have two grown children, a son and a daughter, of whom they are enormously proud. They continue to be members of Detroit's Gesu parish which is important to them because of its involvement in social justice and meaningful liturgy. Jane joins her husband in retirement with hopes of travel to Ireland and New Zealand as well as domestic destinations.

# Karel Bowlus Oxley '72

"You never quite know the moment when you may change a child's life forever." This mantra guided every single day of the 40 years Karel Bowlus Oxley spent as an educator in Northern Ohio schools. She accepted this responsibility with dedication, enthusiasm and creativity. Karel praises Marygrove College for fostering a passion for serving the underprivileged and says, "Marygrove has been a blessing beyond compare."

Beginning in 1995, Karel worked for the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). As a regional facilitator she presented workshops across the state and nationally on issues such as federal programs, curriculum, data analysis, leadership training for principals, reform models and testing. Most of the 19 counties in her district were high poverty areas that were given special attention to improve student proficiency. Prior to that, she held several positions at St. Joseph Central Catholic in Fremont, Ohio and taught educational programs for migrant families in Old Fort, Ohio.

From 2003 until retirement last year, Karel was the superintendent of schools in Lima, Ohio, a low income district. With her three children raised and the support of her husband, she lived in Lima during the week – 75 miles from the family home in Fremont. Her challenge was to promote the importance of education as a means to combat poverty, and develop a positive culture among staff, community, parents and students within the system.

Karel fought hard and won a renewable \$1.3 million Knowledge Grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. She then entered into tough negotiations with unions and built relationships with all their stakeholders. To gain the trust of the students and parents, for the first week of each school year she rode the buses to school with them, making a point to greet every new student and family. Coffee and donuts for the bus drivers was another of her thoughtful gestures. The attention reaped dividends in improved performance and test scores and set the tone for a warm and friendly atmosphere in every district school. Karel was also responsible for oversight of

a \$120 million building project. She focused on the "small school concept" which reduced large buildings to smaller learning communities -- vital to facilitate better learning environments. When Karel retired there were 11 learning communities in the district's eight buildings.

In 2011, as president of Ohio's Buckeye Association of School Administrators, Karel led a delegation of over 20 administrators to China to compare and evaluate the Chinese educational system.

Karel has used her leadership ability on a host of community and professional boards. Among them: United Way Board of Trustees; Lima Symphony Board; Allen County Economic Development; Allen County Visitors and Convention Bureau; the Croghan Bank Recovery Act Board (Fremont) and West Ohio Food Bank Board. Others are: Northwest Ohio Educational Technology Board; West Central Learning Academy Board; and Ohio State Superintendent of Education Leadership Cohort Group II. She also served a decade on the Toledo Diocese Vocations Admissions Board; and was a founding board member of the Catholic Education Development Board.



Capping a career of remarkable and important achievements, in May 2012 Karel was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Bluffton University, a liberal arts institution in Ohio. Also that year, Karel was presented with the Betsy Cowles Award for outstanding leadership among numerous recognitions.

When Karel retired last year, she and her husband Walter embarked on a five-month, round-the-world trip aboard the freighter Rickmers Shanghai. The ship docked at 26 ports and the couple was able to experience numerous cultures firsthand in 42 cities and towns. The Oxleys were the only passengers on the 13-day return trip from Asia. They introduced the concept of Thanksgiving aboard the ship. They celebrated Christmas by taking pictures of crew members, presenting them and electronically forwarding the pictures to their families. "The trip was a life changing experience," says Karel.



# Robert D. Tompkins '14

Robert Tompkins is the kind of student that faculty and staff members rely on and other students seek out – in other words, a promising Alumnus of Tomorrow. He works full-time in the Educational Technology Services department and takes courses toward his degree in Business. Robert has positioned himself as one of the “go-to” people on campus for many issues including technical advice. He also trains faculty, staff and students to use software with the goal of “empowering people to use or better use new programs including simpler ways of formatting and editing.”

Linda Brawner, Director of Educational Technology Services, wrote, “Since Robert joined our staff we have been able to pursue goals that were previously out of our reach. We have built capacity in new areas, and are exploring paths that we previously would never have ventured into.”

Robert came to Marygrove on the recommendation of the Specs Howard School of Media Arts where he had earned a certificate in Graphic Design. A talented designer, he wanted to complete a degree and formally study the technologies he has used for years, as well as all aspects of business development. In conversation he brims with entrepreneurial ideas that he knows are in his future.

Crediting his mother Cheryl Jordan, Robert says that she made learning fun and exposed him to all the arts, culture and unique experiences that Detroit had to offer. She enrolled Robert in the Junior Great Books reading program at the Detroit Main Library. “Her parenting style should be in a book,” he says. He attended the Burton International School and Murray Wright High School. At age 12 Robert had his first exposure to the work world, a pediatric internship at Children’s Hospital where he typed documents, attended meetings with doctors and met with patients. He learned new practices and skills as well as the value of work.

Robert excels in campus leadership. According to Professor Theodora Williams, Chair of the Department of Business and Computer Information Systems, Robert demonstrates his commitment to making a difference on campus in many ways. She personally attended Robert’s class on the use of productivity software and commented on his knowledge and patience in explaining concepts and willingness to find answers to class questions.



Robert picked up the mantle of leadership with the PACO (Power, Authority, Communication, and Outreach) project which was based on the citywide Detroit Soup model. He applied for a grant for PACO Soup through the Kresge funded B.O.L.D. initiative which infuses leadership principles throughout the Marygrove curriculum. PACO Soup offered students, staff or faculty groups or individuals an opportunity to present a project for micro funding at a public dinner event. The attendees paid \$5 and voted for the winner at each session. Organization projects such as the Image of God Crisis Center Baby Shower were awarded grants in the range of \$150 to \$200. The Center enables at-risk pregnant teens to receive baby clothes, equipment and counseling. Another proposal received funds for promoting fine arts events on campus to draw wider audiences. “See that change can be made,” is the slogan he uses to show that even small grants can be effective.

Several of those who endorsed Robert for the Alumnus of Tomorrow Award commented that in his various campus jobs he stepped in to cover the work of people on leave, and easily and quickly picked up what was required and handled the workload in a very competent and professional way.

Among the jobs he held before coming to Marygrove were several in Wayne County Court administration – the County Clerk’s office, and the Juvenile Court. Robert also worked for the Boys and Girls Club, the YMCA and with Central Michigan University-sponsored Upward Bound youth enrichment programs at Northern and Frederick Douglass High Schools.

Robert, who has the nickname “Scooter” for his constant activity, is an intense movie fan. A group of fellow film lovers regularly join “Mr. Robert at the Movies” to view and discuss new releases and classics. When not seated in a theater, Robert often can be spotted running or biking through Midtown Detroit and is delighted by the area’s resurgence.

A master’s degree in educational technology is next on the horizon for Robert who also wants to design youth development technologies.

## *Distinguished Alumni Award*

### *Past Honorees*

#### 2002

Veronica Mary Maher, IHM '51  
Barbara Bigley O' Brien '55  
Gilda Sferrella Pace '52  
Marie Jean Brinkman Sloan '54  
Teresa Snider-Boring '98  
Norma Wilson Wade-Miller '71  
Reverend Curtis C. Williams '96

#### 2003

Gabrielle Baker Burton '60  
Mary Margaret Connolly '67  
Maura D. Corrigan '69  
Ann Moore Feeny '57  
Deborah Hunter-Harvill '77  
Mary Joseph Maher, IHM '53  
Alice Geisler Raftary '49, '67  
Richard J. Samyn, O.F.M. '95

#### 2004

Ann Gabriel Kilsdonk, IHM '45  
Angela Celeste May '90  
Khris Nedam '98  
Elsa Potter '60  
Elizabeth Fischer Richards '64  
Mary Ellen Riordan '41  
Mary Massaron Ross '82

#### 2005

Rosemary DeLaurentiis Blaszkiewicz '62  
Edee LaFramboise Joppich '53  
Kathleen Prendergast Kaiser '70  
Lorraine Lubawy Ozar '68  
Nettie Harris Seabrooks '55  
Mary Anderson Walker '56  
Jacqueline G. Woods '97

#### 2006

Brian Christian '07  
Margaret Brown Dudar '46  
Rita Edgeworth Fields '96, '02  
Bridget Gonzales '82  
Mary Kathleen Hughes '66  
Sheila Keefe '56  
Yesenia Lara '07  
Amata Miller, IHM '54

#### 2007

Elizabeth A. Burns '72  
Armando R. Cavazos '99  
Lana Cavalier Cowell '64  
Suzanne M. Fleming, IHM '57  
Lynne O' Loughlin DeGrande Hackathorn '67  
Victoria E. Jones '76  
Amy Pavlov '08

#### 2008

Debra S. Barash '09  
Patricia Newman Brasseur '73  
Mary D. Moore Hubbell '56  
Sharnita C. Johnson '87  
Patricia Mucci LoRusso '77  
Mary Trepanier-Street '71  
Elizabeth Walters, IHM '66, '08

#### 2009

Nancy McDonough Geschke '64  
Eileen Connell Heasley '67  
Sharon Holland, IHM '61  
Amy Lange '08  
Kathleen O'Reilly '68  
Brianna Williams '09

#### 2010

Margaret Brennan, IHM '45  
Mark Honeyman '85  
Suzanne Stead Husband '65  
Patricia Siroky Konovalov '87  
Ann Petrie '60  
Kim Redigan '08  
Angela Watley '10

#### 2011

Shanelle Jackson '07  
Ann Burger Klocke '56  
Mary Callaghan Lynch '76  
Brittany Mack '12  
Judith Tomlanovich Miller '61  
Jan Soleau, IHM '59  
Virginia Wadsworth '86

#### 2012

Juliana Casey, IHM '62  
Miriam Mohrhoff Poirier '62  
Dorothy Seebaldt '66  
Sharon Rodgers Simone '67  
Francie Kennedy '73  
Rochelle Dornatt '77  
Jarell Williams '12



**Special thanks to the Distinguished Alumni Award review committee for their commitment, diligence and integrity in selecting the award recipients.**

Linda Anderson '01  
Toni Babcock '47  
Mark Bartnik '79  
Brenda Bryant, Ph.D.  
Director of the Master of Social Justice Program  
Mary Jo Durivage '71  
Sharon Sweeney Grisdale '58  
Janet Hunt '66  
Pizarro Lovelace '84  
Mary Ann Markel, IHM '55  
Diane Puhl  
Director of Alumni Relations/Alumni Annual Giving  
Janie Sheraw '99

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Yesenia Lara '07, Vice President	Sheila Keefe '56
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Mark Bartnik '79	Elizabeth Poliuto Loria '70
Samual Blue '93	Pizarro Lovelace '84
Gloria Brown-Banks '11	Brittany Mack '12
Rita Healey Carey '68	Kezia McAllister '10
Rita Edgeworth Fields '96, '02	Alison McNeeley '03, '09
Lillie Smith Foster '99	Druel Outley '00
Vanessa Howell Ghant '92	Frances L. Brown Simmons '85
	Carol Baron Wiseman '58

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## The Mission of Marygrove College

Marygrove College, an independent Catholic liberal arts college sponsored by the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, is committed to fostering Christian values, to educating students from diverse backgrounds, and to serving the people of Metropolitan Detroit and beyond. The fundamental purpose of Marygrove College is to educate each student toward intellectual and professional competence; toward career flexibility through grounding in the liberal arts; and toward active compassion and commitment. To this end, Marygrove College provides a personalized learning environment which, through excellent teaching in its undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education programs, sets for its students these goals:

**Competence**, the ability to understand and participate effectively in the promise of our evolving world.

**Compassion**, the capacity to care about and respect the worth and dignity of people.

**Commitment**, the will to act responsibly based upon one's beliefs and to contribute to the building of a more just and humane world.



## IHM Congregational Sponsorship Statement

The Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary works in partnership with the administration, faculty, staff, and boards to uphold the integrity of the IHM mission in the schools, maintain academic excellence, and keep tradition alive in each of the schools for future generations. The mission of the IHM sponsored educational institutions includes personal and social transformation which witnesses to the liberating mission of Jesus. Sponsored schools, faithful to the mission of the IHM Congregation, educate in an environment permeated by the Gospel values of love, compassion, justice, reconciliation, and concern for the poor.

**MARYGROVE COLLEGE**

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